

I would like to express my displeasure with the market activities of Comcast with respect to their internet access by cable. As I am sure you are aware, Comcast is purchasing At&T's broadband unit. As part of that transition they are calling the AT&T subscribers and telling them that if they don't switch to Comcast for cable television (I am a Directv subscriber) my cable broadband will increase approximately \$20.00 per month (\$65.95 vs. \$45.95). On the face of it, I find this extortion as I have no other reasonable cost providers of broadband service (DSL or cable).

First, I find it shocking that the FCC does not (as I was informed by Comcast) regulate price increases for broadband service. First, I don't believe broadband service is a "luxury" and should be regulated. I imagine electricity and cable TV were considered luxury items at one time also. In our area of the US I believe a great percentage of residential users are broadband. This seems to defy the very definition of luxury, where only a few percent of the population can afford it.

Second, since there is no competition (I exclude satellite broadband because of its cost) I find it incomprehensible why the FCC wouldn't regulate a monopoly for what is a strategically important technological change in the US market. If the internet is going to live up to its original billing, broadband access must become more ubiquitous. The FCC's and industry's efforts in increasing broadband use will surely be moving backwards if you allow such tactics by Comcast. I am so unwilling to be manipulated by Comcast I am considering going back to a dial-up connection after several years on broadband.